

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NO 7 - JULY 2014

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### CEGESOMA CREATES EXHIBITION IN THE ROYAL PALACE

On 22 July, the Royal Palace in Brussels opens its doors. This summer, tourists and passers-by can visit the exhibition Albert and Elisabeth. Filming the Life of a Royal Couple, created by CEGESOMA. [\[MORE INFO\]](#)

[http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=2698](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2698)

### COURSE ON FAMILY HISTORY, IN COOPERATION WITH DAVIDSFONDS ACADEMIE

Something entirely different this autumn: in cooperation with Davidsfonds Academie, we organize a four-part (Dutch-language) course on how to write your family history. Register now, places are limited!

[\[MORE INFO\]](#) [http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=2733](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2733)

### CENSORED WAR PRESS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Since 12 June 2014, it is possible to read the censored newspapers of the First World War at home.

They are available on The Belgian War Press website. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) <http://www.cegesoma.be>

[/cms/index\\_en.php?article=2706](/cms/index_en.php?article=2706)

### NEXT HISTORIKERDIALOG ON 16 SEPTEMBER IN BRUGES

Belgian and German history textbooks are the theme of the next Historikerdialog on 16 September. Kerstin Schwedes and Kaat Wils will exchange views in the College of Europe on the presentation of the First World War in school books. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) [http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=2736](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2736)

### ARCHIVES IN THE SPOTLIGHT: EXHIBITS EMIEL DE WINTER

Emiel De Winter was Secretary-General of Agriculture and Food during the Second World War. His services yielded an enormous amount of archives. They provide an interesting insight in the Belgian food sector in times of war. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) [http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=2717](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2717)

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## Albert and Elisabeth: Filming the Life of a Royal Couple

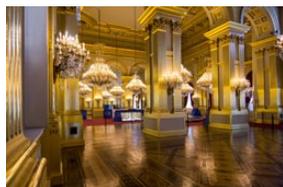
Like every year, the Brussels Palace will open its doors during the summer months for the public to discover the "Science and Culture at the Palace" exhibition, starting on Tuesday **22 July 2014**.

In this year of Great War commemorations, the **Palace** ([www.monarchie.be](http://www.monarchie.be)), the **Chancellery of the Prime Minister** (<http://chancellerie.belgium.be/en>) and the **Belgian Science Policy Office** ([www.belspo.be](http://www.belspo.be)) have entrusted the **Centre for Research on War and Society** (CEGESOMA - [www.cegesoma.be](http://www.cegesoma.be)) with the organisation of an exhibition titled "**Albert and Elisabeth, Filming the Life of a Royal Couple**". CEGESOMA has worked in partnership with the Royal film library ([www.cinemathek.be](http://www.cinemathek.be)) and the Royal association for dynasty and cultural heritage.

Historian Petra Gunst (Tekst & Beeld) was responsible for the historic research, the scenography and the design.



25 years of the lives of the sovereigns were portrayed through a selection of partly unseen footage. The visitor will discover a modern couple who came gladly in contact with the people, and how technological progress shed a new light on the reality of the royal function. The First World War is the hinge of the exhibition, but equally much attention is given to the many journeys of Albert and Elisabeth, the visits of foreign heads of state, and more intimate moments of the royal family. This exhibition is also an opportunity to emphasize the importance of science and research, and to discover lesser known collections of the federal heritage.



The exhibition is accompanied by a **catalogue** published by Mardaga for the French-language version and by Hannibal for the Dutch-language version. The catalogue can be ordered at CEGESOMA ([Lieve Maes](mailto:Lieve.Maes@cegesoma.be) or 00 32 2 556 92 07) at the exceptional price of 20 EUR (plus postage) in stead of 24,50 EUR (bookseller's price).

In his foreword, Philip of Belgium emphasizes an aspect which emerges throughout the exhibition and the catalogue, namely that Albert I is the first king of the Belgians who, from the start, did not present himself alone to the outside world, but always with the Queen at his side.

Through the image, and also thanks to the scholarly contribution of the best experts in the field, this publication offers a synthetic overview of the monarchy in the private and public spheres. It explores different angles of the life of the sovereign and of the royal couple: his ceremonial functions, but also as head of the armed forces, promoter of science and cinema enthusiast.

This publication, under the direction of Chantal Kesteloot (Cegesoma) offers a fresh look at the Belgian monarchy and at one its most emblematic couples. It is amply illustrated with film extracts and photographs from the period.

Following the tradition, **Technopolis**®, the Flemish centre for science and technology ([www.technopolis.be](http://www.technopolis.be)) will also play its part, by presenting the interactive exhibition "**Brilliant Belgian Spirits**". This exposition retraces the story of several important Belgian scientists and the essential role played by King Albert I in promoting scientific research. The visitor will discover the work of ten influential Belgian scientists in a surprisingly original manner.



### Practical information:

Royal Palace, Place des Palais, Brussels  
From 22 July to 7 September 2014, from 10:30am to 4:30pm (last entrances)  
Closed on Mondays - Free entrance

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## Write Your Family History

### *A practical course, in cooperation with Davidsfonds Academie*

Something entirely different this autumn: in cooperation with *Davidsfonds Academie* we organize a four-part (Dutch-language) course on how to write your family history. As participation is limited, we advise you to register as soon as possible!

Why did your great-uncle emigrate to the United States? What information do land register records convey about your ancestor's prosperity? How did your family experience the First and the Second World War? Or how did they fare in Congo? Are you interested to know how you can find this information? This course is intended for everyone who wishes to explore his/her family's history.



Different experts will help you in your research by putting theory into practice by means of exercises and examples, which goes well beyond genealogy. You will learn to summarize the results of your research in a text that will provide a framework for the personal stories in the wider context of 19th and 20th century history. Prior knowledge is not required.

As an extra treat, participants will receive a guided tour in the archive collections of CEGESOMA and of the Directorate-General War Victims, after the lecture of Thursday 13 November (until 4.30 p.m.)

The course dates are Thursday 9 and 16 October, 13 and 20 November, from 2 to 4 p.m. The course will take place in the conference room of CEGESOMA.

**More info and registrations:** [click here](#).

[Karel Strobbe](#)

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## Press Release

### *Censored Newspapers of the First World War Online*

From 12 June 2014, it will be possible to read the censored newspapers of the First World War at home. They will be available on [The Belgian War Press](#) website, where the clandestine press of the two world wars is already accessible. This online publication, an initiative of CEGESOMA (Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society), will also enable new search methods.

In 1914, the Germans introduced press censorship. Yet, newspapers continued to appear. Despite the censorship, they are an interesting source of information on the First World War. They indeed covered a variety of topics such as daily life, the severe food shortage or the monetary chaos. The censored press also illustrates how the war was presented to the population.

### *The Federal Digitisation Project*

The digitisation of the censored press of the First World War, a project for which CEGESOMA closely collaborated with the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), was financed by the Federal Science Policy (BELSPO). CEGESOMA and the Royal Library both hold important newspaper collections of the First World War, but in order to present as much titles as possible, a collaboration was set up with other depositary and heritage institutions. The added value is not only the online accessibility, but also the possibility to consult hardcopy collections spread among different institutions.

### *OCR*

A third advantage are the improved search possibilities. The reader can browse the newspapers on a day to day basis, the traditional method to read a newspaper. The digital data were OCR-ised to make the whole file searchable with keywords. For example, it is quite easy to quickly find information on events in a specific village or town during the Great War.

### *The Belgian War Press*

The digitised files can be consulted on The Belgian War Press website, where the clandestine press of the two world wars is already accessible. This website is not only a tool for accessibility and consultation, but also provides context information on the censored press during the First World war. CEGESOMA wants to introduce this unique collection to a wide audience and not just to specialized researchers. The success of the *Journaux de Guerre / Oorlogskranten*, published with the collaboration of CEGESOMA, shows that there is great public demand for information on the First World War.

### Dirk Luyten

11 / 6 / 2014



Frontpage of censored newspaper "Le quotidien bruxellois", 19 September 1914. (Cegesoma, collection "The Belgian War Press")

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## Examining Belgian Schoolbooks on WW I

### *The next Historikerdialog on 16 September in Bruges*

The next *Historikerdialog* will take place on **Tuesday 16 September 2014** in the College of Europe in Bruges. The German (art) historian **Kerstin Schwedes** will exchange views with cultural history expert **Kaat Wils** (Leuven) on the transfer of war narratives in school books. International dialogue at its best.

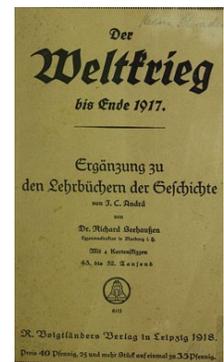
History textbooks are located in-between historiography and collective memory: They are claiming to impart objective facts of the past, but at the same time have to construct a narrative that fits a people's collective memory without compromising the officially recognised vision of the past.

Kerstin Schwedes will analyse and compare selected passages from textbooks to dissect what is told, how it is told, and what is hidden. On this basis she will compare textbooks from Belgium and Germany from different time periods in respect to their presentation of World War I, to finally explore and contrast WWI narrations of other countries. In this context she will present a project of the Georg Eckert Institute that aims at identifying and illustrating those different national narrations in order to raise historical consciousness.

This event takes place in room E of the College of Europe in Bruges (Dijver 11, 8000 Bruges) and starts **at 5 p.m.** Participation is free, but registration is required via the website of [Historikerdialog](#).

### [Ambar Geerts Zapfen](#)

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*Title page of a German history textbook on the First World War, published in 1918 in Leipzig. (Image: GEI Digital)*

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## Eating During the Occupation – Exhibits Emiel De Winter Catalogued

Under record number AA 1314, CEGESOMA keeps a sizable fund of exhibits which relate to the trials of individual cases of collaboration with the occupying authorities in the period 1940-1944. These exhibits consist of documents seized by the Military Prosecutor's Office in 1944 and 1945. 57 boxes of the fund originate from various services that fell under the responsibility of Emiel De Winter, Secretary-General of Food and Agriculture.

This archive fund documents the policy of the Secretary-General as highest official responsible for agriculture and food supply in occupied Belgium. We can distinguish a number of policy lines.

The contacts with the occupying authorities, in particular with the Militärverwaltungschef for Belgium and the North of France form an essential part of the fund. The correspondence concerns the requisitions of food (vegetables, fruit, beverages, meat, fish, preserves,...) destined for the Wehrmacht. The organization of the import and export of these products is an important theme.

A second important policy line is the organisational aspect. Internal memos, minutes of meetings, preparatory texts for new decrees or adjustments to existing legislation and directives, the creation of new structures and organs such as the Commissariat aux Prix et Salaires or corporations such as the Corporation Nationale de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation are among the documents. In this respect, there is also correspondence with other departments among which the Ministry of the Interior, of Economic Affairs and of Finance.

A third, substantial part concerns the relationship with the producers, in particular the fruit and vegetable processing industry. Numerous documents treat the compulsory quantity of goods to be produced such as jam, canned meat or beer, and the supply, delivery and distribution of vegetables and fruit to the official provincial delivery places. Also in this part are the letters of complaint pleading for essential basic products not be rationed so excessively. Numerous are the statements, tables and documents that show the complete production process in figures. Here, the study and statistics departments of the Secretariat-General produced the largest amount of documents.

The 'power relations' between the provincial governor, the district commissioner and the mayor are clearly visible in numerous documents through the issuing of directives. We refer to the administrative procedure, the market organisation, the compulsory labour, the organization of the services for rationing and supply. The management contract with the Institut National du Crédit Agricole (supplying credit to farmers) is also part of the archive fund.

The 57 boxes of the file AA1314 – De Winter Emiel contain 377 numbers. You can consult the inventory [here](#).

**Christian Vanneste**

30 / 6 / 2014



*Emiel De Winter visits the exhibition organised at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels on the third anniversary of the Corporation nationale de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (CNAA), 3 September 1943. (Photo Cegesoma, N° 31318)*

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